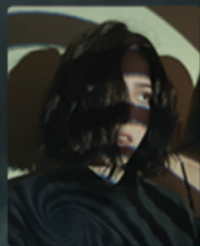


BRAINSTORM



DECEMBER 11 & 12 • 7:00 p.m.



An original production by the students of the Chicago Academy for the Arts Theatre Department with content originally created by Ned Glasier, Emily Lim, and Company Three.

Brainstorm

A note from Director Ben Dicke, Theatre Department Chair

Take a minute to think back.

What were your hopes and dreams at age 15? What did you believe when you were 16? What seemed possible at 14? At 17?

What's changed since?

This piece is the hour-long edit of three months worth of conversation with teenagers. It's amazing what students will divulge when given opportunities to share their experiences. That became our only job as instructors for this project: sit in a room, ask the students to share about their lives, and then type as fast as possible.

Being a teenager is weird. And a lot of that weirdness, as you'll hear, is due to the development of our brains at this age. We're going through a ton of changes between 13 and 18.

And... we're not kids anymore. But we don't have the freedoms of adults either.

When I think about this adjustment to life in the pandemic, it looks strikingly similar to this experience of being a teenager. There's so much to hope for and so much that still can't be done.

I'm super proud of this group of students. Proud of their vulnerability. Proud of their honesty with their faculty and with each other. Proud of the way they've supported each other enough to allow for that honesty and vulnerability.

Thanks for being here.

Ben Dicke, Director

Cast

Natalee Hapaniewski
Elliot Henning-Sepkoski
Nick Spallone
Madelaine Steffen
Gabbie Cannon
Mia Nadborne
Lila Napientek
Elena Quandt

Show Order

Part I - Introductions

Natalee, Madelaine, and Ensemble

Part II - My bedroom, my brain

Ensemble

Part III - Sprouting

Elena, Lila, and Ensemble

Part IV - Prefrontal Cortex

Nick and Ensemble with Special Guests

*(Jon Cannon, Steve Hapaniewski, Michele Graham, Nick Spallone Sr.,
Nora Fleming, David Sepkoski, Penny Dawn DeBernardis, and Jerry
Quandt)*

Part V - Brain Scan

Natalee and Ensemble

Part VI - The Limbic System

Mia, Gabbie, and Ensemble with Special Guests

Part VII - Mental Health Check

Madelaine and Ensemble

Part VIII - You Say to Me, I Say to You

Elliot and Ensemble

Brainstorm

Production Personnel

Directed by Ben Dicke

Devised Script Edited by Ben Dicke, Joey Stone, and The Academy Theatre
Classes of 2021 and 2022

Virtual Content Designed and Created by Buck Blue and Ben Dicke

Produced Live in Zoom by Buck Blue

Theatre Department Faculty

Ben Dicke - Chair

Buck Blue - Production Manager

Adam Goldstein

Sarah Grant

Emily Luhrs

Thank You

Andy Robinson

Jenny Blue

The Academy Faculty, Staff, and Administration

Produced with permission from:

Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

440 Park Avenue South

New York, NY 10016

Coming Up at The Academy

12/14 - [Hello, My Name Is...: A Devised Original Jukebox Musical](#)

The Chicago
Academy for the Arts